

Fremont Conservation Commission
3-07-11 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 7, 2011
Approved April 11, 2011

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Patricia deBeer, Bill Knee, Janice O'Brien, Alternate Leanne Miner, and Alternate/Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

Mbr. Knee made the motion to nominate and elect Mbr. O'Brien as Chairman for the coming year. Mbr. deBeer seconded the nomination. The Members voted unanimously in favor of the nomination except for Mbr. O'Brien who abstained. Mbr. O'Brien accepted the position.

Chrm. O'Brien made the motion to nominate and elect Mbr. Knee as Vice-Chairman for the coming year. Mbr. Karcz seconded the nomination. The Members voted unanimously in favor of the nomination except for Mbr. Knee who abstained. Mbr. Knee accepted the position.

MINUTES

Mbr. Karcz motioned to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

VENUS JOHNSON

Map 3 Lot 054-1-7
42 Bluefish Drive

Relative to the Standard Dredge & Fill Application submitted to the NH DES Wetlands Bureau by Venus Johnson for her property located 42 Bluefish Drive (Map 3 Lot 054-1-7) to be allowed to construct a 6' addition that will impact 61 sf of a prime wetland buffer. On February 8, 2011 the Commission sent a correspondence to DES relating that 1) they still do not desire the loss of further protection through the intrusion of the 61sf of the Prime Wetland buffer; and 2) item #13 on the Standard Dredge & Fill Application erroneously says "the project has been reviewed and granted approval from the Town of Fremont Conservation Commission".

The Commission received a copy of a February 14, 2011 correspondence to DES from Jason Lopez, project manager with Eric Mitchell & Associates also relating that item #13 should read "... the project has been reviewed and granted approval from the *Town of Fremont Zoning Board of Adjustment*".

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Alt. Miner joined the meeting at 7:25 pm.

TOWN FORESTS

The Members received an e-mail message from Dennis Howland relative to the following:

Snow Shoe Hike scheduled for March 19, 2011 at the Glen Oakes Town Forest:

Mr. Howland reported that he has posted flyers around Town and at both Town Forest Kiosks and also submitted an article for Carriage Towne News to be published the week of March 6th. He offered some suggestions relative to a possible route and length of time for the hike. The Members agreed to not go to the island. Mbr. deBeer suggested to keep the hike to one hour and the other Members agreed.

The Members discussed what to do if the snow is no longer there and they agreed to make that decision, if necessary, on the day of the hike. Chrm. O'Brien offered to contact Mr. Howland to relate the Members suggestions.

Hike & Seek Contest: Mr. Howland reported that the April submission to Town Newsletter relative to the contest is already in to Heidi and he plans to submit an article for Carriage Towne News.

As April is the last month of the contest, Mr. Howland requested time on the May Conservation Commission meeting to review the contest answer submissions, determine a winner and to decide how best to award prizes.

PSNH Grant:

Mr. Howland reported that he has started some preliminary work regarding the PSNH grant which is due mid April. He suggested that perhaps the priorities for the grant this time should be in favor of more signage, finishing up Glen Oakes in a few places and starting some signage or northern kiosk in Oak Ridge. He further suggested thinking about pre-painted metal blazes instead of painting the trees for the few spots that need blazing in both trail networks.

Trails:

Mr. Howland reported that he may have found an alternative solution to the Forest Loop bog bridging. The Forest Loop and Homestead Trails are only 50-75 yards apart in one spot. Near the point of closest proximity, there are remnants of an old path/trail etc. This leaves the Forest Loop trail just to the south of the major wet spot and runs west to pick up the Homestead Trail at one of its major turns. At the Homestead Trail intersection there was a path into the woods which he blocked with slash to make sure people stayed on the trail. Mr. Howland suggested that in the wettest months, perhaps folks could be encouraged to use the Homestead Trail and this connector to access the rest of the Forest Loop. He suggested to change the path a little to address the problem. Mbr. Karcz explained the location of the wet area that Mr. Howland alluded to.

Mr. Howland reported that there is an arrow trail sign in Oak Ridge on the Ridge Trail that could be considered in the wrong place. He recently realized that when the Ridge Trail was created (and how it appears on the current map) it cuts the corner near the intersection of Tavern and Meetinghouse,

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leaving the roads and going up and along a nice ridge. He proposes that the trail as originally conceived and routed is much better than continuing on the roads. This would require moving the sign that is at

the intersection of Tavern and Meetinghouse back down Meetinghouse about 50 yards or so, and adding another arrow sign on Tavern where the trail leaves that road. In addition, he would add a few "blue" painted blazes to clearly mark the trail. He offered that this really is a better route and is desirable to separate the foot paths from the vehicle paths whenever possible.

Chrm. O'Brien said this topic will be discussed with Howland at the May meeting.

Mr. Howland reported that work on routing of the second new link trail in Oak Ridge continues and final routing will have to wait for snow to melt.

BIOTHON

The Members discussed the May 21, 2011 Fremont Biothon event that will be held at the Glen Oakes Town Forest. There was a conversation relative to how many participants there may be and how much of the Glen Oakes area may be covered to identify specific species.

Mbr. O'Brien said she spoke with Frank Mitchell who did not feel he needs to attend a Commission meeting, but prior to the Biothon event he wants to go out to the area and decide what to do as far assistance and a work plan for the event. Chrm. O'Brien will contact Mr. Mitchell to set up a time and date for that visit.

There was a brief conversation relative to others who may be interested. Mrs. Bolduc contacted Mark West to see if he would volunteer as a group leader and he said he may have something up for that date, but he will try to free himself up so he can attend. Chrm. O'Brien said that her husband has someone from the Audubon Society that may participate and that she will also contact Matt Tarr from UNH Cooperative Extension.

TRASH DAY

The topic of organizing a trash pick-up day at the Oak Ridge Town Forest just prior to bulky day was brought up, but the date for the Town's bulky day has not yet been announced so there was no date chosen for the trash pick-up.

DUES

SPNHF: The Commission received the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests 2011 dues renewal invoice in the amount of \$50.00. Mbr. Karcz made the motion that the dues be paid from the dues and membership line of the current budget. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

NHACC: The Commission received the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission 2011 dues renewal invoice in the amount of \$250.00. Following a brief conversation relative to the benefits of belonging to the NHCC, Mbr. Karcz made the motion that the dues be paid from the dues

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and membership line of the current budget. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

TREASURERS REPORT/ACCOUNT BALANCES

Ms. Bolduc distributed the Treasurers reports and account balance sheets for December 31, 2010 - January 31, 2011 which showed:

- \$101.01 (from the remainder of the 2010 budget appropriated funds) deposited in the Conservation Residual Account.
- \$8700.00 (for fiscal 2010 land use change tax dollars) deposited in the Current Use Escrow Account.
- Interest earned in all accounts.

WORKSHOPS

The Commission received the notice of the April 9, 2011 Saving Special Places conference which Mbr. deBeer said she would like to attend. Alt. Miner made the motion to approve \$60.00 from the Residual Account to fund the registration fee for Mbr. deBeer to attend the Saving Special Places Conference. Motion seconded by Mbr. Karcz with unanimous favorable vote.

GRANTS

Mbr. deBeer reported that she is writing a grant with Fields Pond Association and part of the submission is to relate the things about all of the people on the Commission as well as the key people for the project. She had each Member review what she had written about him/her for accuracy and permission and there were no objections. Alt. Miner provided information about herself.

Chrm. O'Brien thanked Mbr. Karcz for his years of service as a volunteer to the Conservation Commission and said that the Commission would welcome him back in the future if he should decide to return. The other Members agreed with applause. Mbr. Karcz' appointment to the Commission expires at the end of March. He said he will still work with the Open Space Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- The Source Newsletter from DES.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2011.

Mbr. Karcz made the motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

Motion seconded by Alt. Miner with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc

Land Use AA/Recording Secretary